

# SALT TIMES

November 2004



Sheriff Garry E. Lucas

## Giving Thanks

For the hay and the corn and the wheat that is reaped,  
For the labor well done, and the barns that are heaped,  
For the sun and the dew and the sweet honeycomb,  
For the rose and the song and the harvest brought home -  
Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving!

For the trade and the skill and the wealth in our land,  
For the cunning and strength of the workingman's hand,  
For the good that our artists and poets have taught,  
For the friendship that hope and affection have brought --  
Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving!

For the homes that with purest affection are blest,  
For the season of plenty and well-deserved rest,  
For our country extending from sea unto sea;  
The land that is known as the "Land of the Free" --  
Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving!

Author unknown



## *Happy Thanksgiving*



## Have Yourself a Merry Little... Shopping Trip?

The retail holiday season seems to begin earlier each year and so it would seem that your safety awareness should too! Here are a few safety reminders to get you started.

### **When shopping:**

- Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- Remember where you parked so you don't have to wander around the parking lot, especially at night.
- Have your keys in hand.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Only bring what you think you will need or pay with a check or debit/credit card whenever possible.
- Go shopping with another person.
- When in doubt, ask for an escort from the mall to your vehicle.

To be placed on the S.A.L.T. Times mailing list,  
please call (360) 397-2211 ext. 3380

*Look for more holiday safety tips  
in the December S.A.L.T. Times.*

# Some Good Advice

## worth “checking” out!

### Tip #1

The next time you order checks have only your initials and last name put on them. If someone takes your checkbook, they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name, but your bank will know how you sign your checks.

### Tip #2

Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a P.O. Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a P.O. Box, use your work address. Never have your Social Security Number printed on your checks! You can always add it if necessary. If you have it printed, anyone can get it.



### Tip #3

When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, do not put the complete account number on the “For” line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number and this way anyone handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won’t have access to it.

### Tip #4

Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine and copy both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopies in a safe place. You should also carry a photocopy of your passport when you travel.



We’ve all heard horror stories about fraud that’s committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Security number and credit cards. Unfortunately, I, an attorney, have firsthand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week, the thief(s) ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more. But here’s some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know.

- ? We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.

(Continued on page 3)

# Disabled Parking Patrol on the prowl...

**T**he Clark County Sheriff's Office Disabled Parking Patrol program currently has eleven volunteers who each spend approximately 8 hours a month patrolling business parking lots in unincorporated areas of Clark County in search of violators. So far this year 158 citations have been issued for either not displaying a handicapped placard or blocking a

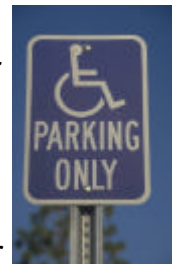
handicapped parking access aisle. Both violations carry a fine of \$250.00. Of those citations issued, many were converted to warnings for those who had a placard but failed to display the placard properly.

Sgt. Peg Prather, the Disabled Parking Program Coordinator says, "these volunteers provide a valuable service to the

community, in particular to our citizens with disabilities."

If you would like to volunteer for the Disabled Parking Program, call Sgt. Prather at 397-2104.

*Volunteers must pass a background investigation and complete a training course.*



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(Continued from page 2)

? File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one.)

*But here's what is perhaps most important of all:*

Call the national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done. There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away. This weekend someone turned my wallet in and it seems to have stopped them dead in their tracks.

In case your purse or wallet is stolen, you no longer have to call each of the three major credit-reporting bureaus. Victims can call one of the three bureaus, which will notify the other two.

Keep these numbers with the photocopies of your credit cards in a place that will be easy to get to should you need them.

Author unknown



<b>Equifax</b>	<b>888-766-0008</b>
<b>Experian</b>	<b>888-397-3742</b>
<b>TransUnion</b>	<b>800-680-7289</b>
<b>Social Security Administration</b>	
<b>(fraud line) 800-269-0271</b>	

SENIORS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT TOGETHER

Clark County Sheriff's Office  
P.O. Box 410  
Vancouver, WA 98666

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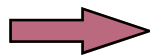
## **Commissioner Judie Stanton**

Judie Stanton became a Clark County Commissioner in 1997 and was elected to a second four-year term in 2000. She has a bachelor's degree from Marylhurst College and a Master's Degree in Business Administration, with President's Honors. A complete biography can be found by accessing:



**Judie Stanton  
District 2**

Come hear Judie Stanton speak about Clark County and issues that are important to senior citizens at the *joint* November S.A.L.T. meeting.



***Joint meeting!***

### **S.A.L.T. Meeting**

**November 15th**

**11:00 a.m.**

**40 and 8 Community Room  
7607 NE 26th Ave.**

**Vancouver, WA (Hazel Dell)**

***Meetings are free and open  
to all seniors!***



For an alternative format, contact the Clark County ADA Compliance Office.  
**V** (360) 397-2025; **TTY** (360) 397-2445; **E-mail** ADA@clark.wa.gov